

Filed for intro on 02/07/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 49
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles Dwight Mason
of Piney Flats.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Charles Dwight Mason; and

WHEREAS, Charles Mason was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he was born in Sevierville to Frank C. Mason and Jennie Lee Solver Mason; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Moshier High School, Charles D. Mason honorably served his country in the United States Navy during World War II in the South Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Charles Mason was a distinguished graduate of Emory and Henry College, where he was an all-star basketball player; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mason was an educator for thirty years, who served with acumen as a teacher, coach, and principal, all positions in which he earned the respect of his students, peers, and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, he began his exceptional teaching career in 1950 at Kingsley Elementary School, and subsequently served as a teacher and head basketball coach at Mary Hughes High School, Mary Hughes Junior High School, and Sullivan County Consolidated East High School; and

WHEREAS, as coach at Sullivan High School, Charles Mason led his 1972 basketball team to a school-record twenty-seven game wins; and

WHEREAS, before his much deserved retirement from the Sullivan County School System, he served with probity as principal of Mary Hughes Middle School from 1972-1989; and

WHEREAS, the Mary Hughes Middle School Gymnasium was dedicated in Mr. Mason's honor, as a tribute to his astute leadership and unswerving commitment to the Sullivan County Community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mason was elected for two terms, from 1995-2000, to the Sullivan County Commission as a representative of district five; and

WHEREAS, Charles Dwight Mason was a member of the Piney Flats precinct for many years, serving diligently as a precinct polling judge, and was elected as Deputy Vice-Chairman of the Third Legislative District in 1990; and

WHEREAS, he served as a committee member of the Sullivan County Republican Party and spent many hours volunteering for the Republican Party in local, state, and national elections; and

WHEREAS, Charles D. Mason was an active and devout member of the Piney Flats United Methodist church, which he served faithfully for many years as a Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mason was wholly involved in community organizations and, whenever called upon to serve his fellow citizens of Sullivan County, he took his responsibilities seriously and never asked for anything in return for his caring service; and

WHEREAS, Charles Mason was not only an outstanding leader in his church and community, he was also deeply devoted to his family, for they were the center of his life and the reason he dedicated himself to the betterment of his community; and

WHEREAS, Charles Dwight Mason enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Betty Hart, was the proud parent of four sons, Mark, David, Bryan and John; and his two grandchildren, Kevin and Dustin; and

WHEREAS, Charles D. Mason will also be greatly missed by his brothers, Claude Mason and Bob Mason; and his sister, Betty Mason Grubb; he was preceded in death by his brother, Ray Mason; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mason leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity as an educator, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, his son, David said, "My Dad was a giant of a man. He was the type of man who would take the shirt off his back to help anyone. Life goes on and time moves fast but I will never forget what my Dad did for his family; and

WHEREAS, others who knew Charles Dwight Mason have described him as sincere, reliable, caring, and most of all a friend; he loved his community, state and nation, and had great faith in God; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Charles Dwight Mason, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to his family and community, and the courage and conviction he exercised in all his actions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Charles Mason Dwight.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.